

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Without prejudice, this listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A gaming system, comprising:

a first ticket-based lottery game;

a first jackpot game;

a plurality of game tickets each having indicia for use in the play of a the first ticket-based lottery game and each also having a respective machine readable ticket code unique to that ticket in said system, the machine readable ticket code for use in the play of a the first jackpot game;

a plurality of distributed terminals for dispensing the game tickets;

at least one central computer in communication with said terminals;

each of said terminals having at least one code reader for reading said machine readable ticket code from each of said game tickets when the ticket is dispensed;

data storage means for storing a prize code; and

comparison means for comparing said prize code with said machine readable ticket code read from each of said game tickets, and for indicating a match between said machine readable ticket code and said prize code.

2. (Previously Presented) The system as in claim 1, in which said data storage means for storing said prize code includes storage means at each of said terminals, and an intermittently-operating modem means interconnecting each of said terminals

and said central computer for uploading and downloading information between said terminals and said central computer.

3. (Previously Presented) The system as in claim 1, in which each of said terminals is connected on-line to said central computer and includes means for transmitting said machine readable ticket code to said central computer, said data storage means and said comparing means being contained in said central computer.

4. (Cancel)

5. (Cancel)

6. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 1, 5 in which each of said terminals includes display means and communication means for communicating ticket sales information to said central computer, and said central computer being programmed to add a pre-determined increment to the amount of a jackpot prize until a match indication is indicated by said comparing means upon dispensing, said communication means being adapted for communicating said amount of said jackpot prize to said display means, and where said comparing means is connected to deliver a match-indicating signal to said central computer to stop the adding of increments to said jackpot prize amount, said central computer being programmed to reduce said jackpot prize to a predetermined lower amount upon delivery of said match-indicating signal.

7. (Cancel)

8. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 4, 1 wherein the indicia on said game tickets is concealed by a removable covering to be removed to play the first lottery game, in which each of said terminals includes a printer for printing play information including indicia to be matched with said indicia on one of said tickets to

determine the amount of any winnings to the holder of said ticket in the first ticket-based lottery game.

9. (Previously Presented) The system as in claim 8, in which said printer is selected from the group consisting of one which is adapted to print said play information on the ticket being dispensed, and one which is adapted to print said play information on a separate sheet.

10. (Currently Amended) A gaming system comprising:

a plurality of independent sub-systems, each of said sub-systems including

a first ticket-based lottery game;

a first jackpot game;

a plurality of game tickets each having indicia for use in the play of a the first ticket-based lottery game and each also having a respective machine readable ticket code unique to that ticket in said system, the machine readable ticket code for use in the play of a the first jackpot game;

a plurality of distributed terminals for dispensing the game tickets,
at least one central computer in communication with said terminals,
each of said terminals having at least one code reader for reading said machine readable ticket code from each of said game tickets when the ticket is dispensed,

data storage means for storing a prize code,

comparison means for comparing said prize code with said machine readable ticket code read from each of said game tickets, and for indicating a match between said machine readable ticket code and said prize code; and

a supervisory computer means connected for communication with the at least one central computer of each of said independent sub-systems, said supervisory

computer means being programmed to receive ticket sales data from each of said sub-systems, determine the amount of a jackpot prize based on said ticket sales data, and communicate information to each of said sub-systems as to the amount of said jackpot prize and the occurrence of a match between a prize code and a ticket code.

11. (Previously Presented) The system as in claim 10, in which each of said sub-systems is located in a different state.

12. (Cancel)

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The method as in claim 12 further comprising:~~

A gaming method, comprising:

providing a first ticket-based lottery game;

providing a first jackpot game;

storing a plurality of gaming tickets in each of a plurality of gaming ticket dispensers, each of said tickets bearing indicia for use in the play of a first lottery game and each also having a respective machine readable ticket code unique to that ticket in said system, the machine readable ticket code for use in the play of the first jackpot game;

providing a code reader associated with each of said dispensers for reading said machine readable ticket code from each ticket dispensed from each dispenser;

dispensing a ticket;

detecting said machine readable ticket code on the ticket indicating that the ticket is a winner of the first jackpot game; and

upon dispensing said ticket, informing the recipient of said ticket that the ticket is a winner;

accumulating a first prize pool by detecting each ticket dispensed from said dispensers and adding a corresponding amount to said first prize pool;

stopping said accumulation upon the detection of the dispensing of said winner; and

starting to accumulate a new prize pool upon the detection of the dispensing of an additional ticket after the detection of said winner.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 13, including starting said new prize pool with an amount greater than zero.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 13 further comprising:

accumulating a second prize pool by adding an amount of money per ticket significantly less than the amount of money added to the first prize pool for each ticket dispensed prior to the award of the jackpot prize; and

using said second prize pool to start said new prize pool after the detection of said winner.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 42 13 further comprising:

accumulating a second prize pool by adding an amount of money per ticket significantly less than the amount of money added to the first prize pool for each ticket dispensed prior to the award of the jackpot prize; and

using said second prize pool to start said new prize pool after the detection of said winner.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 42 13 further comprising:

storing ~~said~~ identification information from said machine readable ticket code and the winner-indicating information in an information storage means;

accumulating a second prize pool by adding an amount of money per ticket significantly less than the amount of money added to the first prize pool for each ticket dispensed prior to the award of the jackpot prize; and using said second prize pool to start said new prize pool after the detection of said winner.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 16, further comprising:
providing human-readable information regarding winning the first ticket-based lottery game, said human-readable information being covered by a manually-removable covering, said human-readable information including the amount of any winners to which the ticket holder is entitled in said first ticket-based lottery game.

19. (Cancel)

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The method as in claim 19, in which~~ A gaming method, comprising:
providing a plurality of ticket dispensing machines;
dispensing instant-winner lottery tickets from said machines, each instant-winner lottery ticket having information identifying one of a plurality of specific games in which the ticket is issued, and having a removable cover over human-readable gaming information, each of said tickets also bearing machine-readable unique identification information;
providing a jackpot prize pool which tickets from the plurality of said specific games are eligible to win;
providing a code reader in each of said dispensing machines for reading said machine-readable identification information and producing corresponding signals;
and

detecting said signals to identify a winner of said jackpot prize,

where providing said jackpot prize further comprises:

using said code readers to detect the dispensing of each ticket from said dispensing machines and adding to said jackpot prize pool a predetermined amount;

stopping the adding to said prize pool when said winner has been detected;

and

starting a new prize pool at an amount lower than that in said jackpot prize pool, after said winner has been detected.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

accumulating a shadow pool by adding a second predetermined amount, smaller than the first-named amount, for each ticket dispensed by said dispensing machines; and

using the amount in said shadow pool to start the new prize pool when the winner has been detected.

22. (Cancel)

23. (Cancel)

24. (Cancel)

25. (Cancel)

26. (Cancel)

27. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 23~~ A system for facilitating the play of a jackpot game together with a separate ticket-based lottery game, comprising:

a game ticket having indicia for use in the play of a separate ticket-based lottery game and a machine readable ticket identifier for use in the play of a jackpot game, where the jackpot game is separate from the first lottery game; and

a prize for winning the separate ticket-based lottery game;

a lottery ticket dispensing machine, including

a code reader to read the machine readable ticket identifier from the game ticket when the game ticket is dispensed by the lottery ticket dispensing machine, and

an output device to indicate the game ticket is a winning ticket for the jackpot game,

wherein the game ticket is a future draw lottery ticket having indicia which are matched against a future drawing event to determine if the lottery ticket is a winner of the separate ticket-based lottery game.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 23~~ A system for facilitating the play of a jackpot game together with a separate ticket-based lottery game, comprising:

a game ticket having indicia for use in the play of a separate ticket-based lottery game and a machine readable ticket identifier for use in the play of a jackpot game; and

a lottery ticket dispensing machine, including

a code reader to read the machine readable ticket identifier from the game ticket when the game ticket is dispensed by the lottery ticket dispensing machine, and

an output device to indicate the game ticket is a winning ticket for the jackpot game,

wherein whether the game ticket wins the jackpot game is determined randomly at the time the game ticket is dispensed.

29. (Cancel)

30. (Cancel)

31. (Cancel)

32. (Cancel)

33. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 32 further comprising the steps of:~~

A method of facilitating the play of a jackpot game together with a separate ticket-based lottery game, comprising:

dispensing a game ticket having indicia for use in the play of a first lottery game and a machine readable ticket identifier for use in the play of a jackpot game;

reading the machine readable ticket identifier from the game ticket when the game ticket is dispensed; and

indicating on an output device whether the game ticket is a winning ticket for the jackpot game;

comparing the machine readable ticket identifier from the game ticket with a stored jackpot winning ticket identifier.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 32 further comprising:~~ A method of

facilitating the play of a jackpot game together with a separate ticket-based lottery game, comprising:

dispensing a game ticket having indicia for use in the play of a first lottery game and a machine readable ticket identifier for use in the play of a jackpot game;

reading the machine readable ticket identifier from the game ticket when the game ticket is dispensed; and

indicating on an output device whether the game ticket is a winning ticket for the jackpot game;

setting an initial value for a jackpot prize amount;

adding a predetermined amount to the jackpot prize amount by detecting each game ticket dispensed; and

stopping the accumulation of the jackpot prize amount when the winning ticket for the jackpot game is dispensed.

35. (Cancel)

36. (Cancel)

37. (Previously Presented) A system for facilitating the play of a jackpot game together with a separate ticket-based lottery game, comprising:

a plurality of independent sub-systems, each of said sub-systems including a game ticket having indicia for use in the play of a first lottery game and a machine readable ticket identifier for use in the play of a jackpot game;

at least one central computer in communication with the plurality of lottery ticket dispensing machines, and

a plurality of lottery ticket dispensing machines, including

a processor in communication with the at least one central computer, a code reader to read the machine readable ticket identifier from the game ticket when the game ticket is dispensed by the lottery ticket dispensing machine, and

an output device to indicate the game ticket is a winning ticket for the jackpot game.